



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY**  
P.O. BOX 1321  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903-1321  
302-744-2743  
[www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov)

**NEWS RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Andrea Summers  
Community Relations Officer  
302-744-2743

**OHS and Police Urging Motorists to Drive to Survive After 4 fatal Crashes In Last 48 Hours**

**Dover** – Delaware Office of Highway Safety officials are urging motorists to pay especially close attention to their driving and use extreme caution after a deadly weekend on state roadways. In less than 48 hours between 3 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 a.m. Monday, four fatal crashes occurred on Delaware roadways, resulting in the deaths of four people, and injuring at least two others. This brings the number of people killed in motor vehicle crashes in Delaware since January 1<sup>st</sup> to 77.

According to police reports, primary contributing factors in the crashes were speed, alcohol, red light running and failing to yield the right of way.

“Impaired and aggressive driving, and in particular speed, continue to be the leading cause of traffic deaths in Delaware,” said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety. “We need drivers to be more aware of how they drive at all times, slow down, and never drive or walk on the roadways after consuming alcohol.”

Two of the fatal crashes involve motorcyclists. This brings the number of motorcycle deaths to 10 since the beginning of this year, compared to 11 deaths to motorcyclists at this time last year. One fatality was a pedestrian who police say may have been impaired, and the fourth fatal crash involved failure to yield the right of way by a vehicle driver.

The Office of Highway Safety and Delaware law enforcement are currently conducting a DUI crackdown on impaired drivers through the Labor Day weekend, a Walk Smart campaign to increase pedestrian and driver awareness of Delaware’s pedestrian laws, and a Ride Safe motorcycle safety

awareness campaign using radio ads, billboards, and print ads to reach both motorcyclists and drivers of passenger vehicles.

OHS and Delaware law enforcement ask you to remember the following safety tips:

- Speed kills. Slow down. The faster you drive the less effective your cars built in safety devices become. Aggressive driving was responsible for more than half of the state's fatal crashes last year, with speed being the leading aggressive driving behavior.
- Both driving and walking while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs is illegal and can significantly impair your judgment. Simply put, if you have been drinking do not drive, operate a motorcycle, or walk along or try to cross a roadway.

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